

**MICHIGAN CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM LEADERSHIP**

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**Child Support  
Legislative Package  
2013 – 2014  
May 7, 2014**

*Compassion. Protection. Independence.*

**Child Support Legislative Package:  
Overview and Goals**

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**Proposals to:**

- **Increase support collections**
- **Engage parents**
- **Improve efficiency**
- **Save costs**
- **Confront underground economy (UE)**

## Bill Summary Table

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SB No.	Sponsor	Topic	Amended Statutes
HB 5472	Rendon	Problem Solving Courts	SPTEA
HB 5508	Zorn	Casinos: Intercept Gambling Winnings	OCS Act
HB 5509	MacGregor	Casinos: Intercept Gambling Winnings	Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act
HB 5511	McCready	Judgments Against the State	Revised Judicature Act
HB 5512	Kurtz	Pre-Assistance Cooperation Requirement	Social Welfare Act

## HB 5472: Problem Solving Courts

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- Amends the Support and Parenting Time Enforcement Act to allow payers who are having difficulty making support payments and who meet specified criteria, with the approval of the court, to submit to an alternative contempt track.
- The alternate track requires an individualized plan designed to assist the payer in dealing with common barriers to compliance with the support order. Unlike the traditional civil contempt process, the payer remains under court monitoring and supervision for up to one (1) year to achieve compliance. Also provides penalties for noncompliance with agreed upon plan.

## HB 5472: Problem Solving Courts cont.

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### Why?

- Many parents are willing but unable to meet their child support obligations due to medical or social problems which could be mitigated with supervision, monitoring and referrals to appropriate community programs.
- Direct court supervision with appropriate treatment and/or related program support is designed to assist payers in overcoming problems that become barriers to support order compliance.
- Helps parents support their children.

## HB 5508:

### Casinos: Intercept Gambling Winnings

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- Amends the Office of Child Support Act to authorize the Office to create a secure, electronic registry containing information regarding individuals who owe past-due support.

### Why?

- State-licensed casinos will have access to this registry so they may check it at the time they report winnings to the IRS.
- This amendment will coincide with the amendment to the Gaming Control and Revenue Act proposed in HB 5509.

## HB 5509: Casinos: Intercept Gambling Winnings

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- Amends the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act to require state-licensed casinos to check a child support electronic registry at the time they report winnings to the IRS.
- Ensures that notice and opportunity to be heard is provided to the parent/winner.
- Allows casino to retain \$10.
- Requires the Chairman to attempt agreements with Indian tribes for voluntary participation.
- Requires DHS to report results to Legislature.

## HB 5509: Casinos: Intercept Gambling Winnings cont.

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### Why?

- Children are adversely affected when parents divert their financial support to gambling facilities.
- A parent's winnings should be applied to the parent's outstanding support obligations.
- The proposed gambling intercept would compliment the variety of enforcement tools used to collect past-due support from non-custodial parents.

**UE Recommendation**

**Enact legislation requiring casinos to check a child support data base before paying winners.**

## **HB 5511: Judgments Against the State**

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- Amends the Revised Judicature Act so that courts provide to Treasurer name of claimants against the state.
- Treasurer to determine child support amounts, amounts due state, amounts due subdivision of the state, and amounts due under court order for restitution, fines, costs, fees, etc.
- Treasurer shall not pay the judgment without first satisfying the debts.
- Claimant has opportunity for hearing.
- Requires disclosure of the names of who are receiving the payment.

## **HB 5511: Judgments Against the State cont.**

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### **Why?**

- Claimants who owe support and other debts should not receive payment from the state before satisfaction of these debts.
- The proposed intercept would compliment the variety of enforcement tools used to collect past-due support from non-custodial parents.

## HB 5512: Pre-Assistance Cooperation Requirement

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- Amends the Social Welfare Act to require custodial parties to cooperate with OCS before they are eligible for Family Independence Program (FIP) assistance.

### **Why?**

- Saves costs involved in providing assistance to non-cooperating parties.
- Helps families become self sufficient by ensuring they understand the parental responsibility of providing for their children from the onset of applying for assistance.
- More valuable time will be directed toward cases involving cooperating parties.